

NOTES AND NEWS.

THOMAS McILWRAITH, a Fellow and one of the Founders of the American Ornithologist's Union, died at his home in Hamilton, Ontario, on January 31, 1903, in his 79th year. He was born in Newton, Ayr, Scotland, 25th of December, 1824, and in 1853 settled in Hamilton, Ontario, where he became a prominent and successful business man, retiring from active business about ten years ago. From early boyhood he was an ardent lover of nature and later became especially interested in birds. As early as 1860 he had become a local authority on the birds occurring about Hamilton, notices of which he published in the 'Canadian Naturalist' in 1860 and 1861 (Vol. V, pp. 387-396, and Vol. VI, pp. 6-18, 129-198).

In 1866 appeared his carefully annotated 'List of Birds observed near Hamilton, Canada West' (Proc. Essex Institute, V, 1886, pp. 79-96), numbering 241 species. This brought him prominently to the notice of the leading American ornithologists, with a number of whom he maintained for many years a very active correspondence. In 1886 appeared his 'The Birds of Ontario, being a list of Birds observed in the Province of Ontario, with an Account of their Habits, Distribution, Nests, Eggs, etc.,' an octavo volume of about 300 pages. A second edition, entirely rewritten and greatly enlarged, including descriptions of the species, was published in 1894, forming an excellent and greatly appreciated manual of the Birds of Ontario.

In 1883 Mr. McIlwraith was invited to the meeting of the leading American ornithologists, held in New York City, which resulted in the founding of the American Ornithologist's Union. He was made a member of the Committee on Bird Migration, and the work of the District of Ontario was assigned to him for supervision. In 1889 he was elected a member of the Council, which office he held for one year. He had gathered a large collection of Canadian and British birds, many of which he had mounted. He was warmly esteemed in the community in which he lived, and left a wide circle of friends among the members of the A. O. U., by whom he has long been held in high respect.

JOHN NATHANIEL CLARK, a Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in Saybrook, Conn., Jan. 13, 1903, at the age of 72 years. He was born in Saybrook Jan. 14, 1831, and was a descendant of John Clark of England, who settled at Saybrook Point in 1636. He was widely known and greatly respected, and had long taken a prominent part in the affairs of his native town, having for sixteen years held the office of probate judge, besides filling other public offices with credit and

fidelity. He was educated in the public schools of his native town, and during his earlier life taught school for twenty years in Westbrook and neighboring towns.

From early life he was enthusiastically interested in birds, and for many years was an authority on the birds of southern Connecticut. He had gathered a nearly complete collection of the birds, and their nests and eggs, of his region, and from time to time for many years contributed interesting notes of his discoveries to various natural history journals, notably to 'The Auk,' and its predecessor, the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club.' He was the first to make known the nest and eggs of the Little Black Rail, two nests of which were discovered by him at Saybrook, Conn., respectively in 1876 and 1884.

Mr. Clark was a regular attendant at the annual Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union, participating in its proceedings, and where his presence was always welcomed as a pleasant feature of the occasion. He was absent from the last Congress, but contributed, as usual, to the program of the meeting. His last paper, entitled 'The Domestic Affairs of Bob-white,' is published in the present number of 'The Auk' (pp. 161-164). He had many warm friends among the older members of the A. O. U., by whom his memory will be long cherished, not less for his amiable personality than as an ardent field student of birds.

EDWARD STANLEY WATERS, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union since 1894, died at his home in Holyoke, Mass., December 27, 1902, at the age of 71 years. He was born March 22, 1831, at Salem, Mass., where his family had resided for several generations, and where his father was judge of the Salem police court. After a preparatory course at the Salem Academy he entered Harvard University, but ill health prevented his graduation. He became, however, a civil engineer, and at the outbreak of the civil war he joined the Engineer Corps, and was soon assigned to the staff of General Burnside, and later to that of General Meade. Although engaged throughout the remainder of his life in engrossing business affairs, he was greatly interested in natural history, especially in botany and geology, and evidently in ornithology, although he published little if anything relating to these sciences. He was an expert hydraulic engineer, and the construction of the big dam at Holyoke, across the Connecticut River, and one of the largest in the country, is a monument to his engineering skill. At the time of his death, and for many years previously, he was the treasurer and agent of the Holyoke Water Power Company. He was recognized as a man of high moral tone, but is said to have never mingled much in social life or in politics, belonging to but one organization, the Holyoke Horticultural Club. He is survived by two brothers, one of whom is Henry Fitzgilbert Waters, of Melrose, Mass., the well-known genealogist.

THE MICHIGAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB was organized in Detroit, Feb. 13, 1903, to succeed an earlier similar organization which disbanded about three years ago. The officers elected are: President, A. B. Covert, Ann Arbor; Vice-President, Dr. Philip E. Moody, Detroit; Secretary-Treasurer, Bradshaw H. Swales, Detroit. A bird protection Committee was established, consisting of Edward Arnold, Chairman, Battle Creek; James B. Purdy, Plymouth; and Prof. Walter B. Barrows, Agricultural College; to act in conjunction with William Dutcher, Chairman of the American Ornithologists' Union Bird Protection Committee. The Club will publish a journal to be called the 'Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club,' with A. W. Blain, Jr., as editor. It will be an illustrated quarterly, devoted to the ornithology of the Great Lakes Region. One of the purposes of the Club will be to secure more effective legal protection for the birds of Michigan. The Club has already about fifty members, scattered throughout this and the adjoining States. Monthly meetings will be held at Detroit, and an annual meeting at the same time and place as the annual meeting of the Michigan Academy of Sciences.

THE SECOND annual meeting of the Vermont Bird Club was held in the Williams Science Hall in Burlington, January 16 and 17. Papers were read by Mrs. E. B. Davenport on 'Birds of Mount Mansfield observed between June 6 and July 31, 1902,' mentioning 75 species; by Carleton D. Howe, 'Some suggestions to the Vermont Bird Club'; by G. H. Ross, 'Nesting of the Golden-crowned Kinglet,' an account of ten nests found in Rutland County; by Miss M. M. Tuttle, 'Nesting of the Prairie Horned Lark,' in Poultney, in March, 1902. Mrs. Davenport gave an account of the last meeting of the A. O. U.; Mr. Ross reported the taking of a Barn Owl in Danby; Prof. Votey reported the Red Phalarope from Greenboro, and Mrs. Horton an albino Cuckoo from Brattleboro. Twenty new members were added, increasing the membership to nearly one hundred. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Prof. G. H. Perkins, Burlington; Vice-President, C. D. Howe, Essex Junction; Secretary and Treasurer, G. H. Ross, Rutland. Steps are to be taken to secure an accurate list of the birds known to occur in the State, with the object of publication.

WE REGRET to learn from the publishers (Dana Estes and Company, Boston) that the publication of the new edition of Dr. Coues's 'Key to North American Birds,' announced to appear in the spring of 1903 (see Auk, XX, p. 97), is unavoidably deferred till the coming fall.

'THE WARBLER' is the title of a new ornithological magazine, of which the initial number (Vol. I, No. 1) has just appeared. It is of royal octavo size, and will be published bi-monthly, by the Mayflower Publishing Company (John Lewis Childs, president), at Floral Park, N. Y., under the editorship of the Rev. H. C. Munson. ("Subscription price, 30 cents for 3

years.") 'The Warbler' was formerly a department of the popular journal of floriculture 'The Mayflower'. It will be devoted "to the study and protection of North American wild birds, and to promoting a better appreciation of them." The present number well sustains the above-quoted editorial promise. Among the popular articles on birds is the beginning of a series of papers on 'Birds of Prey', illustrated with half-tones of groups of specimens in Mr. Childs's very large collection of mounted North American birds at Floral Park, to which, we learn from 'The Warbler,' he has just added a fine specimen of the Labrador Duck, purchased of the Free Public Museum of Liverpool, England, for \$1000.

AT THE last meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, held in Washington, Nov. 17-20, 1902, the question of holding the next meeting of the Union in California was considered. For various reasons an attempt to hold the regular annual congress so far from the geographical center of the membership seemed impracticable, and the proposition finally took the form of a proposed special session, for the presentation of scientific papers, to be held in California during the spring or early summer of 1903. The matter was finally referred to a committee, with power to make all the necessary arrangements for such a meeting, provided the proposition proved feasible. This committee consists of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Dr. T. S. Palmer, and Mr. John H. Sage. Late in February the Committee issued a circular of information, stating that "the railroads are not only willing to grant very favorable rates, but that most satisfactory arrangements may be made with respect to stop-over privileges." It also gave the following itinerary for the outward trip:

"The plan is to leave Chicago May 3, to reach San Francisco on or about May 13, and to hold the special meeting May 15-16 in conjunction with the California members of the A. O. U. and the members of the Cooper Ornithological Club. The stop-overs now planned are at Albuquerque and Santa Fé, New Mexico, the Fossil Forest on the Desert of the Little Colorado, the Grand Cañon in Arizona, and San Bernardino, Riverside, Pasadena, and Los Angeles in southern California. This will enable the party to visit points of greatest historic, ethnologic, and scenic interest in Arizona and New Mexico, including the old Mexican town of Santa Fé and at least one of the picturesque Indian pueblos where the stone and adobe dwellings and picturesque costumes of the people are in strange contrast with those of the East. The feature of the trip will be the stop at the Grand Cañon of the Colorado in northern Arizona, where time will be given for a descent into the most sublime and wonderful chasm known in the whole world.

"In southern California the route traverses the Mohave Desert with its fringing belt of tree yuccas, and then descends through Cajon Pass to San Bernardino, whence a side trip is planned to the celebrated orange groves at Riverside. At Pasadena an opportunity will be given to ascend Mt. Lowe in the Sierra Madre, and at Los Angeles to visit the coast at Santa Monica or Redondo." A trip to the Yosemite is also planned.

The cost of a round-trip ticket will be a single fare from the starting point to Chicago, plus \$50.00; to which should be added \$6.50 for the round trip to the Grand Cañon, making a total of \$74.50 for the round-trip ticket from New York.

The tickets for the round trip are good from May 2 to July 15, and the return trip may be made over any route the holder may be pleased to select, with an additional charge of \$11.50 if the return is made by way of Portland or Seattle, over either of the northern roads. The plan is to go as a single party, then disband and return as the various members may elect, as regards date and route. With the unrestricted stop-over privileges granted by the railroads, members have the opportunity of devoting most of the ten weeks available for the trip to sight-seeing or in ornithological field work at such points as they desire especially to select.

The number of applications for enrollment for the trip thus far received seems to render it certain that the plan of holding a special spring meeting in California is an assured success. Detailed information regarding the trip may be obtained from Mr. John A. Sage, Portland, Conn., to whom all communications should be addressed.

MR. WILLIAM DUTCHER, in his annual report as Chairman of the A. O. U. Committee for the Protection of North American Birds, published in the last number of 'The Auk,' showed (see map, pl. III¹) that 16 States had adopted the A. O. U. 'model law,' and 15 others were enumerated which were without such a law, and respecting which the Committee "proposed to make an active effort" to obtain its enactment during the then approaching legislative season. It is a subject of congratulation to all bird lovers that prior to March 20 the A. O. U. model law had been adopted by the legislatures of North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington, and had been favorably reported, or passed through one branch, in the legislatures of Colorado, Michigan, Missouri, Texas, and Virginia. Mr. Dutcher is to be especially congratulated on the excellent results thus far accomplished during the present year, since much of this success is due to his unremitting efforts in this good cause.

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY in New York city began some fifteen years ago to place on exhibition a series of bird groups illustrating the bird life of eastern North America, since which time between 50 and 60 groups have been placed in its exhibition halls. These include a wide range of types, illustrating most of the families of

¹ Unfortunately in 'making up' the January issue the two maps accompanying Mr. Dutcher's report were transposed as to position and number; to accord with the references in the text Plate III should be numbered Plate IV, and Plate IV should be plate III, and their location in the text correspondingly changed. The titles at the bottom of the plates are, however, correct, so that no serious confusion need result.

North American birds. At first the groups were mostly limited to the Passeres, and each group usually consisted of a single pair of birds, with its nest and eggs, or young, as the case might be, placed in their natural surroundings, reproduced in facsimile. Later more ambitious pieces were attempted, but not till 1901 was there anything on a very large scale.

In that year the 'Bird Rock Group' was installed containing seventy-three birds, illustrating seven species, and forming a group seventeen and a half feet long and six feet ten inches high. The species represented are the Common and Brünnich's Murres, the Razor-billed Auk, the Kittiwake Gull, the Puffin, Gannet, and Leach's Petrel, the scene being a section of a cliff on Bird Rock, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, where all these species nest in close proximity. The reproduction is realistic in the highest degree, so that the group gives the visitor to the Museum an exact representation of the home life of the breeding sea bird colonies in the far north.

This masterpiece of the taxidermist's art is admirably supplemented by a large descriptive label, and with large photographs from nature of portions of the Bird Rock colony, and a diagrammatic explanation of the group. In addition to the label, the Museum has issued a 'guide leaflet' to the group, in the form of a supplement to the 'American Museum Journal,' (Vol. I, No. 11, Oct., 1901), forming an octavo pamphlet of 24 pages, with numerous half-tone illustrations from photographs from nature and of the group. The text gives a history of this famous Bird Rock from the time of its first description by Jacques Cartier in 1534 to the present time, followed by an enumeration and description of the sea birds still breeding there. This pamphlet is placed on sale, for the convenience of visitors, at the nominal price of five cents per copy.

A companion piece to the Bird Rock Group has just been installed, representing, on a similar scale and in an equally realistic manner, the bird life of the seashore as illustrated at Cobb's Island, on the coast of Virginia. This group is of the same length and height as the Bird Rock Group, but the width has been considerably extended, to give room for the better display of the birds, which occupy a sandy beach instead of the irregular face of a cliff.

To supply the background effect, furnished by the cliff itself in the Bird Rock Group, resort has been very successfully made to the skill of the panoramic artist, who has supplied a canvas background appropriately supplementing the scene suggested by the birds in the foreground, with so skillful an effect that the line of junction of the real and the simulated is difficult to distinguish. The number of species included is seven, represented by sixty-three specimens, and their haunts and manner of nesting are presented with extreme fidelity of detail. The birds represented are the Black Skimmer, the Common Tern, the Least Tern, the Gull-billed Tern, the Oyster-catcher, and the Wilson Plover. The scene is a sandy beach, strewn with oyster and other sea shells, interspersed with

tufts of the coarse grass characteristic of such beaches. The group cannot, however, be considered complete until supplied with its large descriptive label, now in preparation, and illustrated with enlarged photographs from nature, and with the 'guide leaflet' that will give the details of bird colony life on the beaches of a low sandy island.

The Museum is to be congratulated on taking the lead in the work of providing realistic representations of bird life as it exists under widely varying conditions in nature, for it is perfectly safe to say that no other Museum in the world has placed before its visitors such attractive and instructive bird exhibits as are here to be seen. Therefore not only is credit due the Museum authorities for furnishing the means and the authorization for such work, but especially to the Associate Curator of the Department of Mammalogy and Ornithology, Mr. Frank M. Chapman, for its conception, and the gathering personally in the field of the material for the groups, the photographs for their illustration, and the supervision of their preparation. To Mr. H. C. Denslow is also due great praise for the skill displayed in the preservation and posing of the numerous individual birds represented, especially the downy nestlings and half grown young which form so important a feature of the exhibit.

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE of Audubon Societies has begun to issue a series of 'Educational Leaflets,' which it is hoped will be the means of doing much good among agricultural people and in the schools throughout the country.

No. 1, treating of the Nighthawk, was published Jan. 1, 1903, and No. 2, on the Mourning Dove, March 1. No. 3, on the Meadowlark, and No. 4, on the Robin, will be published May 1 and July 1, respectively.

It is hoped that the demand for these leaflets will be so large that the Committee will be warranted in continuing the issue at intervals of two months until a large number of the common species of birds of North America have been thus treated.

The leaflets are of uniform size, $5\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ inches, 4 pp. The first page is illustrated with a half tone 4×5 of the species treated, from original drawings by Louis Agassiz Fuertes. The second page gives the description and distribution of the species, while the remainder of the leaflet gives the latest facts regarding the economic status of the species, from data furnished by the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Each leaflet contains a series of 'Study Points for Teachers and Scholars,' which will, if followed, enable them to gain a comprehensive knowledge of the bird in question.

These leaflets can be supplied for 50 cts. per hundred, or \$3.00 per thousand, postage or expressage included.

If the members of the A. O. U. will encourage the distribution of these leaflets they will be advancing the cause of bird protection along educational lines, the channel through which the most good can be done at the present time.—WILLIAM DUTCHER, *Chairman, A. O. U. Protection Committee.*